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Princeton Theological Seminary. Society of Inquiry. Committee on Public Morals, Romish Church, and Infidelity.

Minutes. 1832-1846.

Members of this Committee

+ Clark
+ Mack
+ Curtis
+ Boardman
+ Lovejoy
+ Adger
+ McEwin
+ Woodward
+ Billings
+ Chipman
+ Cross
E.P. Ely
T.T. Ely
+ Frary
+ Edwards
+ Greendy
+ Floyd
+ Hopkins
+ Miles
+ Junkin
+ Corp
+ Henderson
+ Stuart
+ Sheddan
+ McCullough
+ Gunn
Exit + Porter

+ Wilson
+ Bradford
+ Boyd
+ Preston
+ Paine
+ Scott
+ Ford
+ Cole
+ McKee
McMullin
Morris
Waller
Ernst
x Miller
x Spees — absent
+ Helme
+ Quillin
+ Wigly
Moule
Nevin
Kennedy
Hill
Berry
Stuart S.D
+ Bullock
D. Stuart
Talbot

McMullin
Morris
Waller
Ernst +
Moule
Nevin
Kennedy +
Hill
Berry
S.D. Stuart
D Stuart
Talbot
Stonestreet
Bell

Morris
Waler
Ernst
Moule
Kennedy
Hill
Berry
S.D. Stuart
D Stuart
Talbot
Stonestreet
Bell

Order of Business

1. Prayer
2. Roll.
3. Minutes.
4. Excuses
5. Proposition & Election
6. Discussion or Essay
7. Miscellany
8. Appointments of Business
9. Adjournment.

S. G. S.

Sec'y

N.B. See the end of the book.

Records of the "Committee on the Romish Church"

Nov 26. 1832 In discharging the duty imposed upon them by the late officers of the Soc of Inquiry Brs Clark Mack & Curtis met & in the absence of their colleagues Brs Boardman & Lovejoy proceeded to organize themselves into a "Com. on the Romish Ch." The following were adopted as the rules of the Com.

1 There shall be a Chairman & Sec who shall be chosen annually at the last meeting of the Summer Session

2 The Com. shall meet statedly on the evening of the 2d & 4th ~~last~~ Thursdays of every month immediately after Spea-king.

3 At every regular meeting of the Com. an Essay, the reading of which shall occupy not more than half an hour shall be read by one of the members proceeding in Alphabetical order.

4 Members shall be elected by ballot

5 Every meeting of the Com shall be opened with prayer.

Br Mack was chosen Chairman & Br Curtis Secretary. The following individuals were elected members of the Com. Brs J. B. Adger ~~Hart~~

Mc Ewen & Woodward.

Nov 29. Com. met & was opened with prayer by Br Clark. Br Mack was appointed to read a monthly report on the first of Dec — Brs Adger Clark Mack & Curtis were appointed a com. to propose a series of subjects for Essays. Brs Billings Chipman Cross E.P. Ely J.T. Ely Frary & Schuyler were elected members of the Com.

H. Curtis

Dec 11th A meeting of the Com. was called by the chairman. opened with prayer by Br Adger. Mr Phelps addressed the com. on the subject of publishing a series of extracts, & after some conversation the com. adjourned. to meet Dec. 12th. H. Curtis Sec.

Dec. 12. Com met agreeable to adjournment & was opened with prayer by Br Woodward. After discussing the propriety of the measure proposed at the last meeting A com consisting of Brs Mack & Mc. Ewen were appointed to consult with the Proffs on the Subject. H. Curtis Sec

P.S. Resolved that the Com. meet hereafter on the evenings of the 2d. & 4th Thursdays. of each month.

Dec 22 The Com met at the call of the chairman
by Br Frary. The com appointed to consult the
Profs reported the opinion of the Professors —
and the report was accepted. The Com appointed
to prepare a list of subjects for essays reported
a list of such subjects. On motion resolved that
a com be appointed to request Prof. Hodge to de-
liver a lecture on the prophetic character
of papacy. Brs Cross & Chipman were appoin
-ted as that com. Brs I. Edwards Grundy &
Floyd were elected as members of the Com —

H. Curtis Sec.

Dec 27th Com met was opened with
prayer by Br I. I. Ely. An Essay was read
by Br Adger on the question: Is the Romish Ch the true Ch
or Christian Ch. The com appointed to wait on
Prof. Hodge to request of him an expository
lecture on the prophetic character of papacy
reported his acquiescence in the request.
Brs E. Hopkins & Miles were elected members
of the Com. Br I. I. Ely was appointed to
write to Rev G. Potts & Br Grundy to write Rev J. Rice.

Brs Floyd & Grundy were requested to make statements of interest respecting the papists in Kentucky & Ireland. The Com adjourned

H. Curtis Sec

Jan 16th 1833 Committee met - was constituted by prayer by Br Clark Br Grundy read a letter from Wm Rice & made a statement of intersting facts respecting the present state of papacy in Kentucky Br Floyd also made similar statements respecting papacy in Ireland - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

H. Curtis Sec

Jan 21th Com met & was opened with prayer by Br T. Edwards. The minutes of the last meeting were read & accepted. Br Edwards read extracts from the prospectus of the "Protestant" (a work about to be published at New Haven) & short commendatory notices from Drs Miller & Alexander, after which a com of one from each class was appointed to

place present the character of this work & to each class & solicit subscriptions. Brs. F. Edwards. Mc. Ewen. & Grundy. were appointed as this committee. Br Billings read an Essay on the Supremacy of Peter, & the infallibility of the Pope. & Transubstantiation.

The Com. Resolved that the next monthly report be prepared by Br Cross & that hereafter the members in alphabetical order make the monthly reports. Br Tunkin was elected a member of the Com.

H. Curtis Sec. Sec.

March 14th The Com. met & was opened with prayer by Br Woodard. The Com. appointed on the "Protestant" reported about fifty subscriptions for that work & that it would be forwarded soon. The Com appointed to request from Prof Hodge an exposition of some prophecies relating to the "Man of sin" were continued & requested to repeat that request. After various promiscuous remarks the Com. adjourned -

H. Curtis Sec.

March 28th The Com. met. was opened with prayer by Br Junkin. An Essay exhibiting stating the effects of Auricular confession was read by Br Edwards. Some remarks touching the subject were made by the members. A Com of four were appointed to draw up the annual report in July. Com appointed to see Draff Hodge on the subject of an exposition, Some reported but little hope of obtaining the desired sermon. Com. adjourned

H. Curtis Sec,

April 26th Com. met & was opened with prayer by Br Mc. Ewen. Br Hopkins was excused from reading an Essay on condition of his being prepared to read at the first meeting of next term - Br Curtis resigned the office of Secretary of the com. & Br Junkin was elected in his place - Br Adger sent in a resignation as a member of the com which was accepted. Br Cords was elected a member of the Com. Some conversation then took place on the probable results of the present controversy in Philadelphia & New York with the Catholic Priests. Com. adj'd H. Curtis

Thursday June 26th 1833

Committee met ascd to adjournment - opened with prayer by brother Corss - minuets of last meeting read and adopted - The report of the committee appointed to prepare the annual report was read by Br Cross + Members remarked upon the report - Br Findley was elected a member of the committee

adjourned till 2nd thursday of July - Junkin secty

Thursday August 8th 1833

Committee met - opened with prayer by brother Grundy - Br Hopkins read an essay on "the causes of success of the Romish church." Br Clarke was appointed to read at the next meeting & Br Cross his alternate. Brs E. P Ely + Cross were appointed to invite Revd Mr Breckenridge to address the students of the Seminary on this subject. Br Henderson was chosen a member of the committee. Adjourned.

D. X. Junkin Secr

Thursday Sept 12th

Committee met - opened with prayer by Br Grundy. Committee appointed to wait

on Mr Buckenridge reported his assent, and the ~~the~~ same committee was continued as one of arrangement. Br Junkin was elected Chairman of the Committee - & Br E.P. Ely Secretary.

Committee adjourned - D.S. Junkin Sec

Friday Nov 15th 1833

The committee met and was opened with prayr. Br Mack was called to the chair. The Committee then proceeded to the election of a chairman in the room of Br. Junkin resigned. Br. Crop was elected.

On motion it was resolved that hereafter the monthly essay ~~on~~ be read on the 4th Thursday of each month.

On motion it was resolved that we elect a corrisponding Sect. whose duty it shall be to record in a book, kept for that purpose, such facts, connected with the Romish church, as the Committee may deem worthy of record. It shall be the duty of each member to present these facts to the Committee in writing that they may dispose of them as they see proper. Br Mack was appointed to this office and was directed to purchase a book at the expense of the Committee. Br Henderson according to request was dismissed from the R-Committee. Committee adjourned.

Jas McEwin Sect. pro tempore. Transcribed by D.Z. Stuart

Nov- 29th 1833

Commitee met according to adjournment and was constituted with prayr. Bro. Crop being absent Br Grundy was called to preside. D J Stuart was appointed Sect- pro tempore. The commitee then proceeded to the election of officers. R C Grundy was elected Chairman and D J Stuart Sectritary. Brothers Sheddan and Mc Cullough were chosen as members of the commitee. Brother Clark was dismissed.

On Motion it was resolved, that no use should be made of the facts recorded in the Reference book, which would tend to implicate any individual who had presented such facts. Commitee adjourned. D J Stuart Sect

Thursday 12th 1833

~~Society~~ Commitee met according to adjournment and was constituted with prayr. Brothers Gunn Potter Bradford Wilson Boyd were elected members of the commitee. Brother Hopkins according to his request was dismissed. Br Mack informed the Commitee that Broth- Hopkins had presented to them a blank book in which they could record facts concerning the Romish Church. The commitee then resolved that a vote of thanks be presented to him for his favour. It was moved and resolved that the commitee always appoint some deffinite field on which to converse on the second thursday of the month. The question

appointed for the next conversation is the history and prospects of Catholicism in Portugal. Commitee adjourned. D.J. Stuart

December 26th 1833

Commitee met according to its adjournment and was constituted with prayer. Bro. Cobb read before the commitee the regular monthly essay. Brother Mack presented a number of facts to the Commitee which were ordered to be recorded. Commitee adjourned. D.J. Stuart

Thursday evening. Jan. 9th 1834.

The commitee met according to its adjournment and was constituted with prayer. Brothers Sheridan and McCullough were dismissed according to their request. The discussion of the question was postponed on account of the paucity of members present. Commitee adjourned. D.J. Stuart

January 23d 1834

Commitee met - was opened with prayer. The monthly essay was read by Broth. Gunn. Commitee ajourned. D.J. Stuart.

Febo 28. 1834. (Friday evening)

Committee met and was constituted with prayr. The monthly essay was read by Broth. Grundy. After some free conversation the committee adjourned. D Z, Stuart Sect—

March 13th 1834

Committee met and was constituted with prayre. Brothers Paine and Scott were elected members of the committee. An interesting conversation was held concerning Romanism in Portugal. The next question for conversation is the history and prospects of Romanism in the Papal dominions in Italy. Committee adjourned. D Z. Stuart.

March 27th 1834

Committee met and was constituted with prayre. The monthly essay was read by Brother Mack. After some desultory conversation the committee adjourned

D Z Stuart.

April 10th 1834

Committee met and was constituted with prayer. Brother Ford was elected a member of the committee. The subject appointed for conversation elicited an intersting discussion. Brother Mack presented some statisticks which were ordered to be recorded. Brother McEwin was elected to write the annual report. Brother Floyd was elected to read the annual essay. Committee adjourned after prayer.

D T, Stuart

April 24th 1834

Committee met and was constituted with prayer. Brother Floyd was not prepared to read the monthly essay and was excused. The subject chosen for conversation "What are the qualifications which an individual should possess to constitute him a successful opposer of Romanism"?. Committee adjourned.

D T Stuart

June 26th 1834.

Committee met and was constituted with prayer. On motion of Brother Bradford the reading of the monthly essay was postponed to hear read the

Annual report from Brother McEwin. Some facts were presented by brother Mack. Committee adjourned.

D J, Stuart

July 10th 1834

Committee met and was constituted with prayer - Brother McEwin in the chair pro tempore. Brother Mack presented a list of books on the subject of Romanism which was ordered to be recorded. Brother Mack resigned the office of corresponding secretary and Brother Boyd was elected in his place. The subject elicited an interesting conversation. Brother McEwin was requested to publish such parts of his report as he thought proper. Committee adjourned

D J, Stuart

July 24th 1834

Committee met and was opened with prayer. Subject chosen for discussion is a "discussion of the means which Romanists use to make converts among the young". Committee adjourned. The essayist neglected to read as was expected. D J, Stuart

August 14th 1834

Committee met and was constituted with prayer. Some facts were presented for record. The Committee held a long and interesting conver

dation upon the appointed subject. Committe adjourned. D.Z. Stuart.

August 28th 1834

Committee met according to adjournment and was constituted with prayre. The month-ly essay was read by Broth- Porter. Does the Romish Church prohibit the reading of the scriptures to the laiety ?. is the next question. Brother Scott was dismissed at his request. Committee adjourned. D.Z. Stuart

Sep- 11 1834.

Committee met according to its adjournment and was constituted with prayre. The question proposed was discussed. Officers were elected by the Committee. Boyd was chosen Chairman. Stuart Recording Sect- Porter Corisponding Sect-. Committee adjourned* D.Z. Stuart.

Nov 13th 1834

Committee met and was constituted with prayer. But few members being present the committee adjourned.

D.Z. Stuart

Nov 27th 1834.

Committee met and was opened with prayer, Br Cole was elected a member Bro Wilson, and Gunn, and Preston were dismissed. Dr. T. Stewart resigned his office as Sec and Br Porter was elected in his stead. The question that was selected for discussion is "What is the history and present prospects of Romanism in France"

The Committee adjourned D. T. Stewart Secy

Transcribed by A. P.

Dec. 12. 1834.

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro Floyd the minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Bro McKee Cornet Wallace Morris and McMullin were elected members of this Com, After a free discussion on the appointed question Com adjourned

A Porter Secy

Dec. 25. 1834.

The Com met and was opened with prayer by Br McMullin Brs Miller Spees Helm Quellin, and Wyly were elected members of this committee, The monthly Essay was not read as no further business was proposed the Com adjourned

A Porter
Secy

Jan; 8. 1835. Committee met and was opened with prayer, By Br Ernst The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted, Brs Preston Moule and Nevin were elected members of this Com. A Porter resigned the office of Corresponding Secretary, and Br McMullin was elected in his ~~his~~ Stead,
On motion it was resolved that the Rev John Brackinridge be invited to ~~de~~lever an address before this committee After the appointed Question was discussed, The Com' adjourned

A Porter
Secy

Jun 22. 1835.

Com met, and was opened with prayer By Br Nevin the minutes of the last meeting were read, and accepted. Br Weeks was elected a member of this committee, The resolution which was passed at the last meeting to invite the Revd John Brackenridge to address this committee was reconsidered and on motion it was resolved that he be not invited. The Monthly Essay was read by Br Stewart,

On motion it was resolved that the Monthly Essays be presented in future.

The question which was chosen for discussion the next evening is. What are the reasons to fear that Romanists will gain the ascendency in this country. Com adjd

A Porter Secy

March, 12. 1835.

Committee met, and was opened with prayer by Br Walker, The Minutes of the last meeting were read, and accepted. A number of facts relating to the spread of Romanism in this country were prescribed by Br Mc Mullin, and were ordered to be recorded, After a free discussion on the appointed question, the Com'. Adjourned.

A Porter Secy

March 26. 1835.

Committee met, and was opened with prayer by Br Walker, The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted, The Monthly Essay was read Br Walker, The subject which was chosen for discussion at the next meeting is the "Inquisition". Br Curran was elected a member of this Com', Com', Adj'd.

A Porter Secy

April 9. 1835. Com' met and was opened with prayer by Br Miller after a free descussion on the appointed question the Committee Adjourned

A Porter Secy

April 23. 1835. Committee met and was opened with prayer by Br Morris the minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted, the monthly essay was read by Brothr Ayley. Br Boyd was elected to read the Annual report A Committee was appointed to draft a new constitution. Com' adjourned

A Porter
Secy

x Miller Stewart

July 9. 1835.

Com' met, and opened with prayer by Br Miller, The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Com entered into a free conversation the subject of Popery. The Com' appoi-

ntee to draft a new constitution, × presented one which was adopted in part.

On motion it was resolved that the Rev John Breckenridge be invited to deliver an address before this ~~Committee~~ Students. It was also resolved that the Corresponding Secretary write to individuals in different sections of the country requesting information on the subject.

A of Romanism Committee adjourned with prayer

A Porter Secry

July 23. 1835. Com met and was opened with prayer × by Br Grundy. The revised constitution was taken up and adopted

An Essay was read by Br McMullin "To what Extent are the Jesuits an organized body in this country"

The connection between popery, and Infidelity was assigned to Br. Cole as the subject of an Essay.

Com adjourned with Prayer.

A Porter Secry

Aug 27. 1835.

Com' met, and was opened with prayer by Bro Preston. The Monthly Essay was read by Bro Cole. A letter was read by the Corresponding Secretary from the Rev J Breckenridge expressing his intention to visit us before the close of the term. On motion it was resolved that the Monthly reports be preserved by the Secry for the use of the Com' in making the annual report

Resolved that each member of this Com' who shall be absent from any regular meeting shall be required to render an excuse at the next meeting and if he shall be absent 4 meetings in succession he shall be considered as withdrawn; provided such absence be not in consequence of sickness or absence from the Com'. Question for discussion at the next meeting "Is public lecturing and public discussion the best means of preventing

the evils of Popery" The influence of Nunneries on the public was assigned to Bro Ernst as the subject of an Essay
Committee adjourned A Porter Secy

Sep 10, 1835,
Com' met and was opened with prayer by Bro Quillin, The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted after which the Com' proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year,
Bro Sees was elected Recording Secretary
Bro Miller President Bro M Mullin Corresponding Secretary. Question for discussion at the next meeting is what is the best method of convincing the Papists of their errors Com' Adjourned
Alex Porter Secy

Nov. 26th 1835:
Committee met & was opened with prayer by the Chairman. Minutes were read and accepted. The following persons

were reported absent. Cole - Morris - Ernst - Spees - Helm - Quillin - Nevin - Br. Waller gave reasons for tardiness which were accepted. A letter was then read by the corresponding Secretary from Rev. N. L. Rice of Kentucky on the subject of Romanism. The Corresponding Secretary was directed to write to Rev. Mr. Lovejoy of St. Louis on the same subject. Bro. Ernst being absent the reading of his essay was postponed until the 4th Thursday evening in December. Conv. Then adjourned with prayer by Br. M'Kee.

Dec 10 1835

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Waller Br Spees was excused for his absence at the last meeting Br Preston was dismissed from the committee Absentees Bro's Boyd Cole McKee Quillin Neily Monk Nevin The committee then proceeded to

The election of members Bros Kennedy Hill Berry Shuart were elected The regular question for discussion conversation was then discussed

On motion Resolved that on every subject selected for discussion two persons shall be appointed to open the debate who shall speak each not exceeding ten minutes after which the other members of the com. shall continue the debate Also

Resolved that the appointment of these speakers be left with the Chair

Question selected for next meeting is the following Do Romanists pay divine honours or worship to images

Bros McMullen & Shuart to open the discussion Adjourned with prayer by Br Porter

S. G Spees Secy

Dec 24. 1835

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Br Boyd Absentees Cole Nolen Quillin Reily Aeven Kennedy Excuses of absentees at the last meeting Br Boyd was excused Br McKee's excuse was not sustained Br Moul was excused Also Br Ernst- Br Ernst read an essay upon the subject of the best method of dealing with Catholics in our country Br Helme was appointed essayist for four weeks hence Subject for essay Present state of infidelity in America. Adjourned with prayer by Br Berry

S G Speel Sec

Jany 14. 1836

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Br McMullen The roll being called Brs Cole Waller Holmes Quillen Wiley Stevens & Kendy were found absent A letter was read by the Cor Secy from the Rev. Elijah P Lovejoy of St Louis The Question for conversation was regularly discussed The question for discussion for next time is The public discussions on the evidences of christianity adapted to promote the cause of truth

adjourned with prayer S S Speis Sec

Jany 25 1836

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Br. Stewart Agreeably to an article in the Bye laws Brothers Quillin Weeks Cole were stricken from the list of ~~members~~ this committee Br Helme failed to fulfil his appointment as essayist Br Bullock was elected a member of the committee Br. Hill was appointed essayist for the month of Feby & Adjourned with prayer S. G Speed. Sec'y

+ subject the present state of infidelity in America

Feby 26. 1836

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Br Porter Minutes of the last meeting were read & accepted Absent Stuart Boyd Moule Irvin Bullock Excuses of Absentees Br. Earnst excuse for Absence at the previous meeting was not accepted Br. D Stewart was elected a member of the committee Br. Hill read an essay on the subject of the present state of infidelity in America Question for essay for the

month of March Present state of Romanism on the continent of Europe Epagist Br Kennedy Br Helme was stricken from the list of the committee

S. G. Speer Secy

Thursday evening 10. March 1836

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Br Berry Minutes of the last meeting were read & accepted Absent Stuart Porter McKee Boyd D Stuart Kennedy Moule Waller Severn Br Talbot was elected a member of the committee The question ~~for discussion~~ for conversation was regularly discussed Question for discussion for the month of April Is there any ground in scripture for the belief of the doctrine of purgatory.

On motion of Br McMillen resolved that after the discussion of any question in the comt that the vote of the comt be taken on the merits of the question

S G Speer Sec

Thursday March 24th 1836

Committee met and was constituted with prayer by Br. McMullin. The sec being absent S. D. Stuart was chosen pro. tem. Minutes of last meeting were read and recieved. Absent McKee, Waller, Specs, Moule, Nevin, Bullock, & Talbot. Brethren Boyd D. F. Stuart. D. S. Stuart & Kennedy were excused for absence. Br. Kennedy was excused from reading an essay at this meeting. And agre=ably to his request another subject was as=signed him for next monthly meeting viz. "A review of the Seven Sacraments of the Romish Church" Closed with prayer by Br Boyd

S. D. Stuart Sec pro. Tem

1836 April 14th Com: met pursuant to adjournment. opened with prayer by Bro Daniel Stuart. roll called. absent Bro: Bullock Talbot & Spees. minutes read and accepted. Bro: Hill elected to make the annual report on Romish Church. Bro Earnest to write on Infidelity. Bro: Hill appointed to make the 8 minutes report at first ~~next~~ meeting. F. S. Enquiry next term the question selected for discussion "Is Matrimony a Sacrament?". ~~So~~ Com: adjourned with prayer by Bro: David Stuart.

Bro S. Stewart & Dan. Stuart were appointed to open the debate —

x The following question substituted Is there any ground in season or scrip ture for the office of Pope

April 26 1836

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Br. Hill
The roll being called Brs. Walker Boyd Miller Stevin D Stuart & Talbot were found absent An essay on the seven sacraments by Br Kennedy Essay was accepted Question for essay in June Does Complusion lead to hypocrisy. Br Mc Kee to read the essay
Adjourned with prayer

Spees Sec

July 14 1836

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by Br Ernst
The appointed question was dismissed
The Chairman having resigned his office Br Waller was elected to fill the vacancy The Secretary having resigned his office Br Mount ~~was~~ was elected to fill the vacancy

Upon request Br Speed had leave to withdraw from the committee
Br Miller also had leave to withdraw
Question for essay assigned to Br McMullen Does Campbell is in lead to Infidelity
Question for discussion Which is the most dangerous to our country? Popery or Infidelity.
Adjourned with prayer by Br Miller
Speed Secy

August 11th 1836
Com met and was opened by prayer by Br Hill.
Br Hackmullin asked permission to withdraw from the committee which was granted
Br Morriss was elected Corresponding Secy in his room (of the Com
Brs Stonestreet & Bell were elected members

The appointed question was discussed
It was decided in the affirmative
Question for essay assigned Br Morris
Does Cannibalism lead to infidelity
Question for discussion 2nd Thursday
in September. Is infidelity more
dangerous to our Govt than Roman
Disputants J Stewart & Kennedy
Adjourned with prayer by
Br Talbot — Morris. Sec

Aug 24. 1836

Com met and was opened by prayer
by Br Hall. The minutes of the former
meeting were read and accepted
Com adjourned to meet Wednesday
Aug 31st. Adjourned by prayer by
Br D. Stuart J. Morris. Sec

Aug 31st 1836

Com met pursuant to adjournment and the meeting was opened by prayer by Br. Berry. The minutes of the former meeting were read & accepted. The annual report on Infidelity was read by Br. Hill. Br Ernst whose duty it was to read the annual report on Romanism being ~~xxxxxx~~ indisposed it was read by Br Hill.

Com adjourned with Prayer by

Br S. D Stewart

J. Mona Sc.

September 8th 1836

Committee met and was opened by prayer by Br Kennedy.

The proceedings of the former meeting were read and accepted. Abs. Stonestreet & Talbot

Br Kennedy was excused for absence & Br D. Stuart censured for absence at the preceding meeting

The subject for debate was discussed decided in the negative.

com proceeded to the election of officers
Br Morris was elected Chairman of the Committee. Br Hill was elected Secretary. Br Ernst was elected corresponding Secretary
Br D S. Stewart elected on com for bringing in subjects
Adjourned by prayer by Br Barney
J Moule. Sec

Nov 24th. 1836

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro Ernst The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved members absent Waller. Moule Kennedy = Bro Talbots excuse for absence at the last meeting was sustained An essay was then read by Bro Morris on the question, does Campbellism lead to open Infidelity, assigned to him at a former meeting which was accepted. Resolved unanimously that we ~~request~~ present through the Chairman a petition to the board of the soc to take the Millenial harbinger published By A Campbell

of Virginia. Question for the next essay 4 weeks hence. Is the Roman Catholick church a true church Essayist-Bro Moore Question for discussion two weeks hence Will the progress of Romanism injure the interests of learning in this country Disps Bro Bell affirm, Ernst neg. Adjourned with prayer By Bro D Stuart

W W Hall Sec

Thursday evening Decem 8th 1836

Committee met and was opened with prayer by bro Ernst. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted Bro Mallen was excused for absence at the last meeting. Absent Brethren Moore & Kennedy. Bro Daniel Stewart at his own request was dismissed from the Comm Brethren Reynolds Twitchell G Wells Woodruff & Wright were unanimously elected members of the committee

The question assigned at the last meeting was discussed by the appointed disputants

and decided in the affirmative Bro Mallen requested a dismission which was granted Committee adjourned with prayer by Bro Talbot W W Hill sec

Thursday evening December 29th 1836
The committee met & was opened with prayer by Bro Wells Absent Brethren Bell & Moule Reynolds Twichell & Woodruff The minutes of the last meeting were read & approved Brethren Chamberlain Hunter Fisher & Crawford were unanimously elected members of the com. Bro Moule failed to produce his essay. The question chosen for this evening two weeks is the system of infidelity now taught in this country opposed to the Republican form of government Disputants Wells & Berry. It was moved & seconded that the latter part of the 2 by laws which requires an essay every 4 weeks be stricken out ~~[illegible]~~ and it be altered so as to require a discussion every evening passed unanimously adjourned with prayer by Bro Hunter W W Hill

Thursday Jan 12th 1837

Committee met & was constituted with prayer by bro Wells Absent brethren Ernst Moule Reynolds Stuart Woodruff & Wright Chamberlain Hunter Fisher & Crawford. Bro Twichell was excused for absence at last meeting bro Bells excuse was not sustained. Owing to the lateness of the hour the question for discussion was postponed until the next meeting Adjourned with prayer by Bro Twichell W W Hill

Thursday Evening Jan 26th 1837

The committee met & was opened with prayer by bro Hunter Absent Brethren Bell Chamberlain Ernst Moule Reynolds Stuart Woodruff and Wright. Bro Kennedy asked a dismission which was granted. Owing to the extreme lateness of the hour the question was postponed until next meeting. A committee consisting of Brethren Berry & Crawford was appointed to enquire into the expediency of changing the evening of meeting. Adjourned with prayer by Bro Crawford W W Hill Sec

Thursday evening March 23rd 1837

The com-met and was constituted with prayer by Bro Fisher. On calling the roll Brethren Bell Reynolds Stuart Tuichell & Woodruff & Wright were found to be absent. The question was then discussed by the appointed disputants and then by the committee and decided in the affirmative. The question for next meeting is is it advisable for our ministers to engage in publick discussions with Romish priests on the points of difference between them and us. Bro Berry reported that it was advisable to continue our meetings on thursday evening and his report was adopted.

W W Hill

Examind. March 24. '37.

Bayless.
Jacobm. } Comi.

April 13th 1837

Committee met at the appointed hour and no quorum being present we adjourned till the next regular meeting

W W Hill

April 28th 1837.

The committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro Reynolds The minutes of the last meeting were read & accepted. Messrs Bell Chamberlain Stuart Tuichell & Woodruff were absent The questions was discussed by bro Hunter on the affir & bro Fisher on the neg & then promiscuously by the committee and decided in the affir Bro Morris was appointed to read the minutes report before the society of Inquiry The question chosen for next evening is what is the present state of Popery & infidelity Adjourned with prayer by Bro Hunter

Wm W Hill

June 29th 1837

The committee met & was opened with prayer by Bro Chamberlain. The minutes of last meeting were read & adopted. Bro Chamberlain was censured for absence at the last meeting Bro Twichell was excused for absence. On calling the role Messrs Berry Ernst Hunter Reynolds Stuart & Wells were absent. Bro Wright moved that Mr Newvandouski be invited to sit with us as a corresponding member which was adopted. The members then proceeded to state the facts in reference to the state of infidelity & Popery in this county which they had collected during the recess The committee then proceeded to the election of annual reporters for September next Whereupon Bros Fisher & Twichell were elected The question for next meeting is. What is the present state of the operations of Roman missions throughout the world. Brethren Wright & Chamberlain were appointed to open the discussion Adjourned with prayer by Bro Wright

W W Hill

July 15th 1837
The com met + on account of the
lateness of the hour we adjourned
T W Hill sec

July 30th 1837
On account of the evening being
otherwise occupied there was no meeting
T W Hill sec

August 15: 1837
The committee met + after a short delay
adjourned with prayer
T W Hill sec

30 August 1837
The com met + was constituted with
prayer + then adjourned
T W Hill sec

Sept 15th 1837.
No meeting on account of the Rev
Mr Wolfs lecture
T W Hill sec

Sept 23rd 1837

The convention was opened with prayer by Bro Ernst & then proceeded to the election of officers for the next year Bro Wells was chosen president Bro Tuckell secretary & Bro Hunter Corresponding secretary. Closed with prayer by Bro Hunter.

W W Hice sec

November 30th 1837.

Committee was called to order and at the request of the president the meeting was opened by prayer by Bro W. W. Hill.

On calling the roll Bro's Chamberlin, Fisher and Hunter were found absent. The minutes of last meeting were read and accepted

Went into the selection of a subject for discussion which resulted in the choice of the following Question. "Is the Romish doctrine of justification Scriptural?"

The Chairman appointed Bro' Hill to maintain the affirmative and Bro' Talbot the negative

meeting adjourned with prayer by Bro' Wright

Jerome Churchill
Secretary.

Called meeting. Prayer at the opening of the meeting by Bro Talbot. After reading of the minutes on motion they were

December 28th 1857.

Meeting opened with prayer by Bro Fisher.
On calling the roll the following Brethren were
Bell, Berry, Reynolds, Stuart.
The minutes of last meeting were read and accepted, The absentees were excused and to Bro Fisher was given the privilege of attending our meetings at his leisure.
The regular disputants were heard in the discussion of the question selected at the last meeting After they had closed we listened to remarks from Bro Hunter & Fisher. The President after some remarks closed the discussion.
On motion the following question was selected for conversation next evening. As it is probable that the majority of errorists are verging to infidelity? Meeting closed with prayer by Bro Wilson.

J. Twichell
Secty.

Jany-

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Brother Fisher. Minutes read and accepted. Went into the discussion of the question "Is the Romish doctrine of justification scriptural. After the regular disputants had been heard we listened to further remarks from Bro's Fisher & Hunter. and the discussion was closed by some remarks ~~from~~ from the President.

Question chosen for Conversation at the next meeting. "Is it probable that the majority of evangelists in this country are verging to infidelity?"

Meeting closed with prayer by Bro' Wilson.

J. Burchell.
Secretary.

July 11th 1888

The committees on "Public Morals" & "Romish Church & Infidelity" met to ~~carry out~~ unite agreeably to the provision of a resolution of the Soc. of Enquiry passed April 24 1888

The object of the meeting being stated, a Com consisting of Mr Mitchel, Wilson & Teese were appointed to draft a constitution & by-laws which was adopted at an adjourned meeting July 31st and is as follows

Constitution

Art 1 The Com. on Public Morals, Romish Church & Infidelity, is the name assigned to this Com by the Soc of Enquiry

2nd The subjects to which the Inquiries of this Com shall extend, are defined in Art 13th Sect 8th & 9th of the Laws of the Soc of Inquiry

3d The Officers of this Com, shall be, a Chairman and Secretary, Elected annually, by ballot, at the last meeting of the ~~summer~~ term

4 It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all regular meetings of the Com

5 It shall be the duty of the Secty to notify the ~~the~~ Com of its meetings, call the roll at the opening of each meeting, keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Com and also to keep a file of all essays & reports read by members of this Com.

6 The regular meeting of this Com shall be held on the second & fourth Wednesday of each month

Altered Feb 20, 1839 (See Minutes)
Altered Decem 22 1840 (See Minutes)
altered Jan

7 At the first meeting of each month, an essay shall be read, not exceeding eight minutes, on some subject proposed by a committe consisting of the Chairman & Sect and

adopted two week previous, to being read. At the 2d, a subject chosen as before shall be discussed by two individuals, who, as well as the essayist, shall be chosen in alphabetic order

8 This Constitution may be altered or amended by two thirds of the members present at any regular meeting.

Ry-Laws

1st At the opening of each meeting absentees shall be called upon for excuses and a vote of the Com taken whethese shall be sustained or not.

2 Any member being absent at three successive meeting, and not appearing at the fourth to render an excuse, except in case of sickness, or of absence from the Sem y, shall be no longer considered a member of the Com and at the regular meeting of the board of managers it shall be the duty of the Chairma

to report the names of any that may be thus stricken off.

3 The Essayest & annual reporter shall be elected by ballot six months before they are required to act

4 After the regular business of the Com it shall be the duty of any member to communicate any information that he may have gained during the intervals of the meetings, on the the subjects that comes within its limits.

Names of Members

	Members.	
Bell	Winter Session 1838-9.	Winter Session 1839-40
Damon	1 Bro: Colt + Allen + Carter	1 A. C. Allen
Fisher	2 " Davidson	2 . . . Beers
Halsey	3. " Dickson + Ewing	3 . . . Colt
Hunter	4. " Forman	4 . . . Davison
Lord	5. " Halsey	5 . . . Dickson
Morris Reynolds	6. " Scott Nevius	6 . . . Forman
Riddle	7. " Teese	7 . . . Holsey
Snyder	8. " Twitchell	8 . . . ~~Lyon~~
Teese	9. " Wilson (Saml. R.	9 . . . Nevius
Twichel	10 " Carter	10 . . . Porkhill Scott
Wells	11 " Ewing	11 . . . Teese
Whitham	12 " A. Allen	12 . . . Willet
Wright		13 Porkhill
Wilson		

Names of	Members	1841.
Beers	Greer	Walsh
Bittinger	Earp	Scott. Williams
Colt	~~Hunt~~	Stratton. Walsh
Davison	Nevius	Vansant
Dickson		Willet

Order of Business.

1. Opened with Prayer
2. Call the Roll
3. Read ye Minutes
4. Receive Excuses for absence
5. Elect Members & Officers.
6. Read an Essays.
7. Discuss a Question.
8. Communicate any information
9. Propose the Essayist
10. Propose Question for discuss^n^ & dispute
11. Elect a Reporter for ye Soc. of Enquiry.
12. Elect by Ballot the Annual Essayist or Annual Reporter (Six mos previous.)

Adjourn.

Dr T. Sec^y

July 31st 1838

Committee convened according to adjournment and was opened with prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The Com. reported a constitution & by-laws which were accepted & adopted

The Com then proceeded to fill the vacant offices. The election resulted in the choice of Br — Mitchel — Chairman

" — Lord — Sec't

Br Lamen was chosen Annual Reporter. and Br Fisher was announced as the next essayest, Adjourned

H. C. Lord Sec't protem

August 9. 1838.

The Committee Convened and was opened with prayer.
Present Twitchell, Hamon, Deese & Lord.
The Minutes of last meeting were read & accepted.
The Essayist failed to perform his duty.
The Subject of Catholicism was discussed by the Committee.
It was resolved that the labours of the Annual Report be divided among three members of the Committee: According Bro's Lord and Deese were added to the Choice of last meeting.
The Question "Has our government anything to apprehend from the Spread of Catholicism"? was adopted for debate and Bro. Halsey appointed to open the discussion, on next meeting.
Adjourned F. C. L.

H. Deese Secy.

Theo. Sem.y Aug 29. 1838.

The Committee on Public Morals Romanism & Infidelity met agreeably to notice, and was opened with prayer.

Present Bre. Damon, Halsey, Riddle, Wilson & Reese.

Absent Bell Fisher, Hunter, Lord, Reynolds, Snyder, Switchell, Wells, Whitlane, Wright.

Bro. Damon was called to the Chair, and Baird Reese appointed Sec.y pro. tem.

The minutes of last meeting were read & approved.

The roll was called and absentees marked, as above.

Bre. Halsey, Riddle and Wilson rendered excuses for absence at the last meeting which were sustained.

Br. Halsey then introduced the discussion of the question selected for debate this Evening.

Bro. Halsey was announced as the Essayist at the next meeting of this Committee.

Adjourned with prayer

Baird Reese: Sec pro tem.

Theo. Sem^y. Dec: 26. 1838.

The Committee on Romanism Infidelity & Public Moral, met this Evening, and was op^d with prayer.
The roll was called and Bro. Whitham was absent. Minutes of last meeting were read & approved.
Bro: Halsey failed in presenting an Essay.
The Sec'y reported that in Conformity with the appt. of the Soc. on Aug 29th Bro. Damon and Teese had presented ~~their~~ Annual Reports on the subjects of Infidelity and Romanism
On motion the following gentlemen were admitted as Members of this Committee, Dickson. Scott Forman, Colt. Davidson.
Bro Halsey was chosen to prepare the Eight Minutes Report for the next Meeting of the Soc Enquiry.
The following question was selected for discussion next meeting of this Committee "Can it be ascertained that Catholics are Systematically colonizing any portion of our Country with Emigrants from Europe?"
Messrs Scott & Teese Disputants.

Bro. Twitchell resigned his place as Chairman of the Committee; and an Election to supply that office resulted in the choice of Bro: Wilson.

An Election to fill the Office of Secretary was held and Bro. Teese was chosen.

Bro. Twitchell was elected to prepare the next Annual Essay for the Soc? of Enquiry.

Adjourned with Prayer

David Teese Sec?

Jan? 9. 1839.

The Committee met this Evening, and was opened with prayer.

Present Bro's. Norman, Halsey, Teese & Wilson.

Minutes of last meeting were read & approved.

On motion the discussion of the Question app? at the last meeting was deferred till next meeting.

Bro: Scott was chosen to prepare the Eight minute Report for the Soc? of Enquiry.

Adjourned. D. Teese Sec'y.

Wednesday Evening

Jany 30 1839.

Committee met at the usual hour in the Mason Library, and was opened with prayer by Bro. Scott.

Absentees Bro^{s} Dickson, Forman, Halsey, Reese, Switchell

The Sec^{y} not being present Bro Davison was appointed as his substitute pro. tem, and read the last minutes which were approved.

Bro: Scott omitted to read his Eight minutes Report.

The Question for discussion then came up and after remarks from the members present, Committee adjourned with prayer by Bro: Colt.

(Signed) Isaac S. Davison

Sec^{y} pro tem.

Note This report was duly submitted to the Soc. of Enquiry, by Bro Scott on the 1st of Feb^{y}

A. Reese (Feb 20)

Sec.

Wednesday Evening
Feb. 20. 1839

The Committee met in the Oratory and was op? with prayer. On calling the roll the following were absent Bro. Forman & Bro Twitchell. The Minutes of last meeting were read & approved. Excuses were made by Dickson Halsey & Teese for absence which were accepted.

Bro Carter & Bro Ewing were rec? as members of this Committee.

It was unanimously Resolved That the 6th Article of our Constitution be so altered as to read thus This Committee shall hold but one Stated meeting during each month and that on the third Wednesday Evening of the month, At which both the Essay & Excursion contemplated in Art. 7. shall be forthcoming.

Resolved that in the selection of questions respect be had to the Order of the Subjects embraced in the inquiries of this Committee.

D. Teese was announced as the Essayist at the next Stated meeting.

The following Question was chosen for debate at the next stated meeting:
"Is public lecturing and public discussion the best means of preventing the evils of Popery?"
Disputants: Dickson and Carter:
Resolved that we adjourn a Special meeting of the Comm". be held on Wednesday Evening Feb. 27. to hear the Annual Essay.

Adjourned with prayer.
David Teese,
Sec:

Wednesday Evening
Feb. 27. 1839

The Committee met this Evening according to adjournment. On calling ye roll the following were the absentees, Dickson, Forman and Switchell.

Bro. A. Allen was elected a member of this Committee.

Bro. Switchell did not make his appearance after some Conversation Adj'd with Prayer,
D. Teese Sec:

1839.

Wednesday Evg March 27.

The Committee met and was opened with prayer. Members absent Davidson, Allen, Swilchell & Wilson. Bro Ewing was called to the Chair in the absence of Bro Wilson.

The minutes of the last meeting read & approved.

Excuses for absence were made by Bro Dickson & Bro Forman which were accepted.

The Essayist rendered an apology for not being able to fulfil his duty this Evening which was accepted, and the appt continued till the next meeting.

The Question for discussion then came up and was discussed by Bro. Dickson, Carter, Halsey, Colt & Forman,

Resolved that Bro. Carter be appd to prepare a Report on Infidelity for the next meeting of the Soc. of Enquiry.

"Should the discussion of Infidelity be introduced into the Pulpit?" was selected as the subject of discussion at our next meeting.

Disputants Colt and Davidson.

Adjd with prayer. D. Seese, Secy.

Wednesday Ev. April 17. '39.

The Committee met this Ev.g & was op.d with prayer.

Absentees Allen, Scott, Switchell & Wilson. Bro Halsey, (- appo Chair" pro tem.

Minutes of y.e last meeting read & accepted.

Bro. Davison Excuse for absence was Sustained.

Br. Deese in fulfil.mt of his appt read an Essay on "the Integrity of the people the basis of their Nation al Stability."

The Question Whether the discuss.n of Infidelity sh.d be introduced into y.e Pulpit, was [illegible] discussed at large, by Coll Davison, Forman, Dickson Ewing.

Resolved that y.e time of discussion on y.e part of y.e principals be limited to 12 minutes, & of other members to 8 minutes each.

Bro Ewing was announced as the next Essayist.

The Question for discussion at our next meet.g is this: "Are there any evils to be apprehended from the adoption of total abstinence principles on the subject of Temperance?" Disput.s Forman & Halsey.

Bro. Davison was Elected to prepare our next Annual Report for the Soc. of Enquiry.

Bro Carters appointment to report to ye Soc's of Enquiry, not being fulfilled was continued over till their next meeting.

Adj'd with Prayer

R. Teese Sec:

"

Wednesday Ev. June 19. '39.

The Committee met & was opened with Prayer. Bro Carter Chairman pro tem. Members all present except bro. Ewing.

Minutes of ye last meeting read & accepted.

Bro Ewing failed to present his Essay.

The Question appd. at last meeting was then taken up and discussed.

Excuses for absence were rend? & sustained from Allen, Scott & Wilson.

Bro. Scott was appointed to prepare the Monthly Essay.

"Is the System of Romanism injurious to ye interests of learning?" was ye Question selected for next meeting.

Disputants Teese and Allen.

Bro Cole was appd to prepare the Monthly Report

for the Soc. of Enquiry, at its meeting in August.

Adjourned with Prayer.

David Teese
Sec:

Wednesday Ev. July 17 1839

The Committee met & was opd with prayer.
Members Absent Dickson & Ewing: The minutes of the last meeting were read & approved.
Bro Scott presented an Essay on Romish Wonders.
The Question appd at last meeting was discussed
B. "Is the System of Infidelity gaining ground in this Country" was selected as the Question for debate at our next meeting. Disputs. Dixon and Forman.
Bro Halsey was appd to prepare the Monthly Essay.
The Secretary laid before the Committee his resignation of that Office: which being accepted Bro. Scott was Elected to fill the vacancy.

Adjourned with Prayer

David Teese
Sec:

Wednesday Ev. August 21st 1839

The Committee met and was opened with prayer. Members absent at the calling of the roll, Davison, Dickson, Halsey. Absent whole meeting, Allen, and Ewing. Bro. Halsey failed to present the Ess assigned to him at the last meeting. The appointed Question was discussed quite at length by the regular disputants, and then some farther remarks were made upon it, by Bros Colt, Teese, and Carter. The Committee next listened, with much pleasure, to the Annual Report for the Soc. of Inquiry prepared by Bro. Davison. Bro. Halsey was reappointed Essayist. Is the system of the Moral Reform Soc. the proper means of accomplishing their professed objects was chosen to be the Question for debate at our next meeting. Bro. Nevins was elected a member of this Committee.

Adjourned with prayer.

James D. Scott.

Secretary

Wednesday Ev. Sept. 18th '39

The Committee met and was opened with prayer. Members absent, Davison, Dickson, and Forman. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Bro Allen was excused for absence. An election being held for officers, resulted in the choice of Bro. Allen Chairman, and J. D. Scott Secretary. Bro Halsey having rendered satisfactory reasons for not presenting an essay this Ev. was excused. On motion, Bro. Carter obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the Meeting. It was moved and carried, that the question for debate be postponed until the next Meeting Bro. Nevins was announced the next monthly Essayist. Bro. Dickson was chosen to prepare the ten minutes report for the Soc. of In. Bro Teese was elected to prepare the next annual essay for the same Society. On motion, Resolved that the Secretary be instructed to lay before the Committee at its next meeting some plan, by which

the members may appear regularly before the Society of Inquiry, as reporters.

Adjourned with prayer

James D. Scott

Secretary

Wednesday Evening Decr 18th 1839

The committee met & was opened with prayer. Members absent, Davison and Colt. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Brs Dickson & Forman were excused for absence. The following brethren were chosen members ~~members~~ of the committee, Beers, [Moore,] H. P. [Thompson] & Willet. The monthly essay was read by Bro Nevins. The question for discussion was indefinitely postponed, and the following chosen for the next meeting, "Is Romanism at the present time essentially the same as it was in the dark ages." Disputants Scott and Nevins.

[did not accept]

On Motion, Resolved that the Constitution be so construed as to select the Essayist and debaters from opposite ends of the roll. Accordingly Bro. Colt was declared essayist, & Scott & Nevins debaters.
Also, Resolved that the reporter for the Society of Inquiry be elected by ballot. Whereupon Bro. Dickson was elected. Bros Baxter and Wilson were dismissed from the committee on their own request.
Resolved, that the time of meeting be changed from Wed. Ev. to Tues. Ev. after preaching.

Adjourned with prayer.

James D Scott,
Secretary

Tuesday Evening Jan. 21st 1840

The committee met & was opened with prayer. Members all present except Messrs Colt & Davison. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Bro. Forman had leave of absence for this Evening. Messrs Lyon and Parkhill were elected members of the committee.

No essay - the essayist being absent. The question for debate was taken up and remarked upon. Bro. Davison come next in turn as essayist. The following question was selected for the next meeting, "Should direct efforts be made to oppose Infidelity or should it be opposed indirectly by propagating the truth"? Debaters Halsey and Forman. Bro. Nevins was elected ~~reporter~~ for Society of Inquiry.

Adjourned with prayer.

James D. Scott Secretary

Tuesday Ev. Feb. 18th 1840

The Committee met & was opened with prayer. Members absent Colt & Dickson. The minutes of the last meeting were read & accepted. Bro. Davison was excused for absence. The monthly essay was read by Bro. Davison. The appointed question was discussed by the regular disputants & remarks were made upon it by Messrs Parkhill, Beers, & Dickson. Bro. Jeare had leave of absence for the remainder of the evening.

Bro. Dickson was declared essayist for next month. The following question was selected, Can a professor of religion consistently hold stock in any public conveyance which stops not on the Sabbath day? Disputants Dickson and Davison. Bro. Holsey was elected reporter to the Soc. of Inq. at its April meeting.

Adj'd with prayer.

James D. Scott Secretary.

Tuesday Evening March 17th 1840

As there was not a quorum this evening, the members present adjourned until the regular meeting in April.

James D. Scott Secr'y.

Tuesday Evening April 21st 1840

The committee met & was opened with prayer. Members absent Forman & Leeds. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. The essayist having rendered reasons deemed satisfactory for not performing his duty was excused.

The appointed question was discussed as usual. Brother Bolt was declared next essayist. The following question was selected, Does Romanism involve its believers in the sin against the Holy Ghost? Disputants Bolt & Beers. Brother Bolt was elected reporter to the Society of Inquiry.

Adj.d with prayer.

James D. Scott Secretary

Tuesday Ev. July 21st 1846

The committee met, & in absence of the President Br. Dickson was called to the chair, who opened the committee with prayer. Members absent Allen, Bolt, Forman, Halsey, Nevins, & Lee. The minutes of the last meeting were read, & accepted. On motion the essay and debate were laid over until the next meeting. The committee then elected Br Beers reporter to the Society of Inquiry.

Adj.d with prayer.

James D. Scott Secretary

Tuesday Evening August 18th 1840
But three members being present this evening
Messrs Colt, Davison & Scott they adjd
to meet on Monday evening 31st Inst.
J. D. S. Sec.

Monday Evening August 31st
No meeting - but two members
present, Dickson & Scott.

Tuesday Ev. Sept. 15th 1840
The committee met, & Br Dickson
was appointed Chairman, who
opened the meeting with prayer.
Members absent Beers, Colt & Davison.
Brs Forman & Nevins were excused
for absence. Br. Bittinger was
elected a member of the committee.
An election being held for officers
resulted in the choice Br. Dickson
Chairman & Br. Bittinger Secretary.
The question for debate was continued

Does Romanism involve it believes in the Sin against the Holy Ghost? Adjourned with prayer

James O Scott Secretary.

Tuesday Evening Decem 22nd 1840

The Committee met, Brother Dickson in the Chair, who opened the Meeting with prayer. The Roll was called and the proceedings of last Meeting read and adopted. The absent Members were read out and Excused. Messrs Beers, Stevens and Millet were not present.

The following Members were then unanimously Elected. Messrs Green, Eaton, Hunt, Stratton, Williams & Walsh & Bryant Brother Colt, appointed Next Essayist. Brother Bittinger was elected to prepare A Report for the Society of Inquiry. On Motion, the time of Meeting was changed from the third to the first Tuesday of Each Month. On Motion, Mr Forman was Excused from attending the Committee. The following Question was then proposed and adopted for discussion at the next Meeting "Is the prevalence of Infidel opinions Consistent with the permanent Continuance of Republican Institutions" Disputants Messrs Colt and Beers.

Adjourned with prayer

Edmd. Bittinger Sec

January 5th 1841.

The Committee met, Brother Dickson in the Chair, the meeting was then opened with prayer by Bro. Davison. The roll was called and the proceedings of last meeting were read and adopted.

The following brethren were elected members of the Committee viz Messrs McAuley, Trimble and Craig The Essay was then read by Brother Colt. The question was then discussed by the members of the Committee.

The following question was then Chosen for the next meeting viz "Are Voluntary Associations Beneficial?" Disputants Messrs Davison & Earp. Next Essayist Brother Davison. Next Reporter for the Society of Inquiry Brother Hunt.

It was then moved by Brother Colt, that when any member failing to discharge his duty, shall be called upon to give his Excuse.

On Motion the Society adjourned.

Edwd Bittinger
Secretary

April 25-th 1841-

The committe met Brother Dickson in the Chair- The committee was opened with prayer by Brother Willet- Brother Willet was appointed reporter and Brother Stratton annual Essayist- Adjourned with prayer

James Freer Sec

Sep 15-th 1841

The committee met Brother Stratton in the Chair- The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Vanzandt- The following brethren were elected members of the committee viz- Mssrs Atkinson- Dodge- Thatcher- McMartin- Brown- Frier- Lyon- Sterling- Brother Earp was appointed reporter for next month- James Freer Sec-

Sep 22 - 1841 -

The committee met and was opened with prayer - The new members took their seats and the following question was chosen for discussion at the next meeting viz Ought ministers of the gospel publicly to discuss the subject of Romanism. Committee adjourned with prayer - Jas. Greer sec

Nov 24th - 1841

The committee met and the meeting was opened with prayer - Brother Bittinger was elected a member of the committee - Brother Dodge was appointed reporter for next month - Brothers Greer and Dodge were appointed to report the order of exercises for the committee The subjected for discussion was postponed until next meeting - Jas. Greer Sec -

January 13th 1842.

The committee met and was opened with prayer by brother Dodge. Members present were Atkinson. Dodge. Earp. J. Greer. M. Grier Bittenger. Stratton. Sterling. Hunt. Vanzandt. Absent brother Thatcher. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. The discussion of the question was deferred until next meeting in order to give time for the adoption of the revised constitution. The committee appointed to revise the constitution made their report which was accepted. and the constitution and Bye Laws commencing on the next page were adopted. Brother Dodge was appointed reporter for next month.

Committee adjourned with prayer by brother Bittenger.

James Greer
Secretary

Constitution of the Committee as revised and adopted January 13th 1842.

Art I. The name of this committee and the subjects for its consideration are defined in art 13th sec 8th & 9th of the Constitution of the society of inquiry -

Art II. It shall be the duty of this committee to investigate the several subjects of Romanism Infidelity and Public Morals and to report on the same at the times required by the society of inquiry and also to present an annual essay.

Art III. The officers of the committee shall be a Chairman and secretary - elected annually by ballot at the last meeting of the term -

Art IV. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all regular meetings of the Committee, and in his absence a Chairman may be appointed "pro tempore"

Art V. It shall be the duty of the secretary to notify the committee of its meetings - call the roll at the opening of each meeting and keep a

Correct record of the proceedings of the Com=
=mittee-

Art VI. The regular meeting of the committee shall be held on the ~~second Thursday of each month~~ x immediately after the exercises in the oratory-

Art VII. The exercises of the committe shall be as follows

1. Open with prayer
2. Call the roll
3. Read the minutes of the last meeting-
4. Receive excuses-
5. Elect members
6. Discuss a subject relating to the Objects of Com.
7. Communicate information
8. Select question for next discussion
9. Miscellaneous business-
10. Election of Reporter
11. Election by ballot six months before and of the Annual essayist or reporter.
12. Election of officers-

Adjourn with prayer-

x See minutes of Nov. 9th 1843

Art VIII. This constitution may be al=
=tered by a vote of two thirds of the members
present at any regular meeting - if proposed
at a previous meeting -

Bye Laws

I. Any member who is absent from
two successive meetings without rendering
sufficient excuse shall be considered no
longer a member of the Committee, and
at the regular meeting of the board of man=
=agers it shall be the duty of the Chairman
to report the names of any who may be
thus stricken off

II. The question for discussion at each reg=
=ular meeting shall be opened by two members
in alphabetical order -

III. Six members shall constitute a quorum

James Erker
Secretary

February 10th 1842.

The committee met and was opened with prayer by Brother Earp. Present Brothers Atkinson. Bittinger. Dodge. Earp. J. Greer Sterling Thatcher. Absent Brothers Hunt M. Grier. Shatton. Vanzandt. The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted. Brother Thatcher was excused for absence at the last meeting. The question was then discussed by Brothers Atkinson & Bittinger and other members. Various articles of information were then communicated to the committee. Brothers Bittinger Atkinson and Earp were appointed a Committee to write to Rev Dr Breckinridge of Baltimore to solicit information in regard to the best authors. method of study. and of managing a debate on the subject of Romanism. The question selected for discussion at the next meeting was. "Is the tendency of the Bankrupt law favorable to public morals". Disputants Messrs Dodge and Earp. Brother Bittinger was appointed Annual Reporter. Adjourned with prayer by Brother Thatcher

Jas. Greer Secretary

March 10th 1842.

The committee met in the oratory and the meeting was opened with prayer. Present Brothers Atkinson - Bittinger - Dodge - Earp J. Greer M. Grier - Sterling - Absent brothers Thatcher & Vanzandt - The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted - Messrs Dodge Earp and other members then discussed the question of the Bankrupt law - There being no special information to communicate the Committee proceeded to the selection of a question for the next meeting when the following question was adopted viz. "Are ministers of the gospel authorized to preach specially on the present state of our commercial affairs" Disputants J. Greer and M Grier - Two reporters were then elected M. Grier for 1st of April and J. M. Atkinson to read the annual essay at the first of next session - Mr Geyer was elected a member of the Committee

Adjourned with prayer

J. P. Greer Sec -

April 14th 1842.

The Committee met and the meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Earp Present Atkinson - Bittinger - Earp - J. Greer - Sterling & Thatcher - Absent Dodge M. Grier Stratton & Vaugandt - The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted - The question Chosen at the last meeting was then discussed - The Question Chosen for debate at the next meeting is as follows viz "Was the Conduct of Napoleon towards the Popites advantageous to the cause of Protestantism" Br. Bittinger was elected Chairman of the Committee for next session and Brother Sterling was elected Secretary - Brother Thatcher was elected Reporter for the first meeting of next session Brothers Mercer & Hepburn were elected members of the Committee -

Adjourned with prayer M. Greer Sec.

Postscript- On motion it was unanimously resolved That the sincere thanks of this Committee be presented to the Rev. R. J. Breckinridge D.D. for his very able and interesting letter on the best manner of studying the Roman Catholic controversy-

Resolved unanimously that the Rev Dr Breckinridge be requested to permit the Committee to publish his letter on the Papacy in the Columns of the Presbyterian-

Resolved that the Secretary be requested to transcribe Dr Breckinridges letter in the Archives of the Committee.

Resolved That the Chairman of the Committee be authorized to make application to the Board of managers of the Soc. of Inqy. for the amount expended by the Committee in correspondence in regard to the interests of the Society-

Sept. 8th 1842

The Committee met and was opened with prayer - Present - Atkinson. P. Greer. Sterling Mc. B. Grier - Absent - Dodge Earp. Stratton & Thatcher. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. The question to be discussed was postponed and the following selected for nex meeting. "Is the tendency of the American Episcopal Church Papal? Disputants Thatcher & Sterling
The following new members were elected Christian Pierson Wilson Thompson More Green & Carpenter
Bro. Bittinger having left the Sen.r Brother Atkinson was elected Chairman of the Com. in his place - No more business the Com. adjourned with prayer.

P. M. Sterling Sec.

Oct 12th 1842

The Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. S Greer - Roll called. Bro. Thatcher absent. The minutes of last meeting were then read and accepted. Bros. Dodge and Earp were excused for absence. The question selected at the last meeting was then discussed in a very able manner by the members of the Com.; and after some very interesting and appropriate remarks the Chairman decided the question in the Affg. After the Communication of some valuable information by the different members of the Com. the following question was selected for discussion next Evening
Is the effect of party Spirit in our Country unfavourable to public morals? Disputants Pierson & Moore. Bro. S. Greer was elected Reporter for the next meeting of the Soc. of Inquiry
Dodge Earp & Sterling were elected to present the next Annual Report. each to take one of the subjects belonging to the Com.. No more business. the Com. adjourned with prayer by Bro Dodge -

Sterling Sec.

Nov. 10th 1842

The Committee met and was opened with prayer by brother Dodge. Roll called, Brothers Pierson and Thatcher absent. The minutes of the last meeting read and approved. Brother Clelland was proposed and elected a member of the Committee. The question selected at the last meeting was discussed and continued. Brs Mr. B. Green and W. H. Green being disputants for the next discussion Mr Sterling offered his resignation of the office of clerkship which was accepted and Br. Moore elected in his place. Br. W. H. Green was elected reporter for the next meeting of the Society of Inquiry. The secretary then read a letter from the Board of Managers of the Society of Inquiry respecting the absence of the Chairman of the Committee from the meetings of the Board. The Chairman of the Com. then gave his reasons for his absence which appearing satisfactory the Com. adjourned with prayer {J. W. Sterling Sec
J. G. Moore Scib

Dec. 8th 1842

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Br. Wilson. Roll called. Absent Brs. Dodge. Christian. Earp Carpenter Pierson Thompson Sterling Thatcher and Stratton. The minuets of the last meeting read and with some amendments approved. Brs. French and Chamberlain were nominated and elected members of the Committee. The question continued from preceding evening was discussed by the disputants and discussion continued by the Committee. The question chosen for the next evening was as follows "Is there any immediate danger to our institution from Romanism". Brothers J. Greer and Earp disputants. Br. Wilson was elected reporter for the next evening meeting of Soc. of Inquiry. There being no other business before the committee it adjourned with prayer by Brother M. B. Greer

J. G. Monroe Sec

Jan 12th 1843

Committee met opned with prayer Roll called Absent Brethren Carpenter W. H. Green Pierson Thompson Thatcher Stratton, Minuets read and adopted. Br Dodge Christian Earp Sterling and Stratton presenting satisfactory reasons for absence on Dec. 8th were excused The question, chosen for the evening, was discussed by the disputants afterward by the committee, Question chosen for next discussion was "Is the tendency of the lectures to the public Lyceums in our cities infidel" Disputants Dodge and Christian, Br. Wilson gave Satisfactory reasons for not filling his appointment as ~~reader~~ reporter to the Society of Inquiry and was excused. Brother French was chosen for the next reporter. Having no other business the committe adjourned with prayer by Br. French

James C. Moore Sec.

Feb. 9th 1843

Committee met and opned with prayer by Br. Pierson. Absent Christian Carpenter Dodge Carp W. B. Greer Thompson Chamberlin Sterling Hatton Br. Thatcher having forfeited his membership by absence, was stricken from the Roll of Com. Brother W. H. Green was excused from the last and Br. Pierson from the last two meetings of the com. The disputants being absent question was discussed by com. Question chosen for next evening viz. "Will the American Protestant association be likely to advance the interests of Protestantism" Disputants Carpenter & Chamberlin. Brother Wilson was chosen Reporter for the meeting of Soc. of Inq. in April. Closed with prayer

James L. Moore

Sec.

March 9th 1843

Committee met and opened with prayer by Bro McMarten. Roll called: members absent Christian Dodge, M. B. Grier, Thompson, Sterling, & Wilson. Question for the evening discussed by the disputants and by the committee. Question chosen for next meeting, "Is it right for Christians to subscribe for a paper known to be Infidel in its character? Disputants Clelland & Wilson

Committee adjourned with prayer

Copied by W. Henry Green Jas G. Moore Secy

April th 1843

Committee met. Bro. Stratton was chosen Chairman in consequence of the absence of Bro. Atkinson. Meeting opened with prayer by Bro Green. The Secretary being absent Bro Green was appointed to fill his place during the evening. Members Absent Atkinson, Christian, Carpenter Moore, Pierson, Sterling, Thomson. Bro. Wilson was excused for absence at the last meeting. Bro Dodge absent at the same meeting rendered no excuse.

On account of the lateness of the hour it was resolved that the question for discussion be postponed until the first meeting next season the disputants remaining the same. Bro Clelland was chosen Reporter for the next meeting of the Society of Inquiry. Bro. Green was appointed Annual Registar. Bro Dodge elected President and Bro Green Secretary for next term. Bros Stratton and Carpmeeting with us for the last time made upon request a few valedictory remarks, after which the meeting was closed with prayer by Bro Wilson.

W. Henry Green Secpent

September 1843

Committee met, in consequence of the absence of the President Bro. French was chosen chairman for the evening – opened with prayer by Bro. Mc Martin Absent Bros Christian, Dodge, Green, Pierson, Sterling Thompson and Wilson. Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Bros Stewart, Kennedy & Farquhar were elected members of the committee. Question discussed at some length and commented

upon by the chair. Topic selected for next meeting
Is there any connection between the Oxford Tract move-
ment and the present activity of the church of Rome".
Disputants Carpenter & French. Brother Carpenter
elected our next annual reporter & Bro. Kennedy the next monthly
reporter committee
Closed with prayer by Bro French

W. Henry Green
Secy

Oct 12th 1843

Committee met Chairman being absent Br.
McMartin was chosen Chairman protem.
Brother Carpenter being absent the discussion
of the question was indefinitely postponed
Question chosen for next evening "Is the Bible
the only infallible standard of faith and obedience"
Disputants Grier and Green. On Motion
Brother Chamberlin was granted dismission from
the Committee Moved and seconded that the
Com. change its hour of meeting until Thursday
after dinner Motion lost Moved and seconded
that Br Moore be appointed to communicate
information relative to societies in Europe for

the propagation of Romanism in this Country
Amended by striking out the subject
Motion carried. Adjourned with prayer by
Brother Clelland W. H. Green Sec.

Nov. 9th 1843

Committee met and was opened with prayer
by Br Sterling Absent Brs Pierson Stewart
and Milson. Brothers Dorland Stark and
Thompson were elected members of the Com.
Brs Sterling and Carpenter presenting Satis-
factory reasons for absence were excused
Moved that in consequence of the absence
of the debaters the discussion of the question
be postponed untill the next evening. and
that the two next on the rool be chosen
as debaters. Motion Carried. Mr.
McMartin was chosen reporter for the
next meeting of the Society of Inquiry. and
Brother Farquhar for the Meeting following
Mr. Moore was Elected Sec. Resolved
that the constitution shall be so altered

that the Com. shall meet on the last Wednesday of the Month instead of on the 2d Thursday Resolved that the reporter read his report before the Com. previously to its being read before the Soc. of Inquiry. Soc. adj. with prayer by Br Clelland

James G Moore Sec.

Jan 31st 1844 Committee met and opened with prayer by Br. Carpenter. Minuets of the last meeting read and approved. Absent Christian Clelland Kennedy Pierson Sterling Stewart & Wilson A. Brother Grier offered excuse for absence from the previous meeting of Com. and was excused Mr. Kennedy the Affirmative in the debate not being present, the question was not discussed, Moved that the committee appointed to communicate information in regard to the Societies in Europe for the propagation of Popery in this Country be discharged, Lost. Moved that he present his essay at next meeting of Com. Carried Resolved that the Secretary examine the roll and minuets of Com. to discover who has

forfeited by Absence their membership in Com. And that he inform such persons previously to the next meeting of Com. that unless they are then present, and offer satisfactory reasons for their absence their names will be stricken from the Roll according to the Law of the Com. Question for discussion at the next meeting viz. "Should the Roman Catholic Controversy be carried into the Pulpit.

Com. adjourned with prayer by Bro. McMartin.

James G. Moore Sec.

Feb. 13th 1844 Com. met in special session at the Call of the Chairman. Opened with prayer by the Chairman. The calling of the roll dispensed with. The Object of the meeting having been stated to be to choose some person or persons to take part in making out the Annual report for the Society of Inquiry Mr. Moore was chosen to perform that duty Com. then adjourned with prayer by B Kennedy

James G. Moore Sec.

Feb 28th 1844

Committee met and opened with prayer by Mr. Moore
Roll called. Absent Messrs Clelland, Grier,
Sterling and Dorland. Motion to excuse Mr. Kennedy
from the last regular meeting of com. last.
Minutes of the last regular and special meeting
read and approved. Question selected for discussion
at the next evening viz "Is the Roman Church in any
sense a true Church" Disputants Sterling and Thompson
The Chairman then stated that he had reported to the
Board of Managers that the names of Messrs Pierson &
Stewart were stricken from the roll of the Com. for
being absent oftener than the by-laws admit.
The following resolution was then offered viz.
"Resolved that the report of the Chairman to the
Board of Managers was beyond his right in this par-
ticular instance" The Motion was amended by
striking out all after the word resolved and inserting
the following, "that the resolution passed at the
preceding regular meeting of com. suspended the
by-laws in this particular instance," Upon this
resolution the yeas & nays were called which

were as follows Messrs. Farquhar, French, Kennedy and Moore.=4. Nays Carpenter, McMartin Thompson & Dodge. Chairman=4 when upon the motion was pronounced lost. Moved that the Chairman together with Mr. French and Carpenter be a committee to examine the subject and report at the next meeting of Comm. On account of the lateness of the evening the reading of the Annual report was omitted. Committee adjourned with prayer by Mr. Kennedy

James G. Moore Sec.

March 27th 1844

Committee met & opened with prayer by Mr. Farquhar Roll called. Absent Clelland Carpenter Grier Pierson Sterling Thompson Dorland and Stark. The disputants being absent the discussion was postponed until the next meeting The same disputants continued. Monthly report read by Mr. Farquhar. Committee appointed to report concerning the excluded members reported that they had not had a meeting

Committee discharged. It was then moved that the Chairmans voting on the previous evening, though in strict accordance with Jefferson's manual, yet being contrary to the laws of Society of Inquiry, ~~and~~ the constitution and bylaws of the committee being silent on the subject, be considered out of order, and that his vote be not counted — Motion carried It was then moved that Messrs Pierson and Stewart be still considered members of this committee, and that they be cited to appear at the next regular meeting of Com. and give an account of their absences, Motion carried. Resolved that a committee of three be appointed to examine and revise the by-laws and report at the next meeting of Committee Messrs French, ~~Carpen~~ Carpenter and Farquhar were appointed. Mr. Thompson was chosen next reporter

Committee adjourned with prayer by Mr. French

James G. Moore Sec.

Oratory May 1844

The committee convened & was opened with prayer by Bro. Dorland. The roll was called, and the following members were absent. Messrs Grier. Moore, Sterling Stewart & Thompson. The proceedings of the last meeting were read & adopted & Messrs Pierson Starke & Dorland were excused for absence from the previous meeting. Mr Sellers was then proposed & elected a member of the committee. On motion the discussion of the question was dispensed with and the same question was selected as the subject of debate for the next meeting. Disputants. Starke & Thompson. The committee appointed to revise & amend the constitution, reported a constitution "de novo" which after some amendments, was adopted. Mr Thompson reporter to the Society of Inquiry being absent the ten-minutes report was not read. Mr McMartin essayist elect, resigned the office which had been assigned to him & Bro. Dorland was elected in his stead. The committee then went into an election of Officers for the ensuing

session which resulted as follows

John B. French Ch. man

James F. Kennedy Sec'y

On motion the committee adjourned, closed with prayer by Bro. McMartin

Transcribed by
Jas. F. Kennedy

Jno B. French
Sec'y pro. tem

Oratory Sept 25th. 44,

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. French. Upon calling the roll the following gents failed to answer to their names. Bros. Carpenter Cleland Moore Sellers Sterling & Stewart. The Minutes of the last meeting were then read & adopted. Excuses for the absence of Messrs Stewart & Thompson from the last meeting were rendered & accepted, Messrs Wailes A. S. Williams, A. J. David, C. Lane R. G. Williams A. V. C. Schenck A. D. Mitchell & John A. Reily were then proposed for election to membership of the committee A Motion was then

made that the vote on the election of these members be taken separately & by ballot. The President misunderstanding the motion, put only the first clause of it to vote, which was carried; whereupon Bro Thompson requested the President to put the motion to vote again as it had been made. Then the Pres: decided to be out of order, when Bro T. called for a division of the house which resulted in a rejection of the motion. The vote was then taken upon the proposed members collectively which resulted in their election, The Monthly report was not read as the reporter Bro Carpenter was absent The debate was then opened by Bro Thompson, who supported the affirmative of the question. The following question ~~following question~~ then disputants Bro. Starke being absent the negative was sustained by Bros McMartin & Farquhar. The Pres: made no decision on the question The following question was then chosen as the subject of debate at the next regular meeting "Can professors of Religion consistently hold stock in public conveyances which run on the Sabbath?" Disputants Carpenter Aff Cleland Neg.. Bro. David was then appointed reporter for November. The Pres: then stated

that in consequence of being elected Vice Pres: of the Soc. Org. he would be compelled to resign his office of Pres: of committee. His resignation was accepted & the committee entered into an election for President which resulted in the choice of Bro Stewart. A standing committee of three, consisting of Messrs French Farquhar & Lane, was then elected to present questions for discussion. The election of the annual reporter for March being next in order it was resolved that there should be but one reporter. Committee then entered into the election which terminated in the choice of Bro. Thompson. There being no further business before it the committee adjourned with prayer by

J F Kennedy Secy

Oratory Oct 30th 44

Committee met & the Pres: being absent Bro. French was called to the chair. The meeting was then opened with prayer by Bro. Sellers. The roll was then called & Bros Carpenter, Cleland, Reiley, Schenck, Moore, Stewart, Thompson, A. S & R. G. Williams were absent. The minutes of the last meeting were then

read & accepted. Bro Sellers, rendering a sufficient excuse for absence from the last meeting was excused Bros Harrison, Eels & Davis were then proposed & elected members of the committee. Bro. David, the reporter not being prepared to read, on acct of ill health was excused,. The members who were principals in the debate being absent it was resolved that the discussion of the question be postponed until the next meeting & that the same disputants be retained. Bro. Farquhar was then appointed reporter for the December meeting of the Soc. Inq. The Constitution was then read & as there was no other business before the committee, it adjourned with prayer by Bro. French

J. F. Kennedy Sec

Oratory Nov 27th 44

The committee convened & the Pres being absent Bro. Farquhar was appointed Pres: pro tem. The meeting was then opened with prayer by Bro. Davis. The roll was then called & the following absentees failed to answer to their names. Bros Carpenter, Cleland, Schenck, Stewart Wailes, Williams A. S & R. G.. The minutes of the last

meeting were then read & accepted. Messrs Moore & Thompson rendered excuses for previous absence which were not accepted. Bro David asked for leave of absence during this meeting of com: which was granted. Messrs Baldwin. Bullions & Taylor were then proposed & elected Members of the com: The Monthly reporter Mr Farquhar, failed to present his report and offering a sufficient excuse, was excused.

The disputants of the debate being absent the Members of Com: entered into its discussion, which continued for the hour. Three questions for discussion were then reported by the Standing com. on that subject. the following one was chosen as the subject of debate at the next meeting "Is it a sin for Protestants to encourage Catholic Schools?" Disputants. David Aff. Davis Neg.

The next business in order being the appointment of the monthly reporter, it was moved & carried by a small majority that as we have had no reports from any of the members appointed this session. that as to the order of reports we should again commence at the beginning of the roll. The reading of Art 6th Sec 1st of the Constitution was then called for, after which the Pres:

dent decided that the motion was not carried on the ground that it was contrary to the constitution. Bro Kennedy & French appealed from the decision. but their appeal was not sustained. Bro French. being next on the roll was then appointed monthly reporter. Upon his offering some reasons to the Com, why he could not perform this duty. which appeared satisfactory to them. it was resolved that he be excused from its performance. Bro. Harrison was then appointed in his stead. Bro Ebelands resignation of Membership was then offered. together with his excuses for absence both of which were accepted. There being no other business before the com: it adjourned with prayer by Bro Eells.

J. F. Kennedy Sec

Oratory Dec 25th 1844

Committee met and the Pres. being absent Bro. McMartin was appointed Pres: pro. tem. Committee was then opened with prayer by Bro. Davis. The minutes of the last meeting were then read & accepted. The roll was then called & Messrs Baldwin Carpenter Davis Eells Farquhar French. Harrison Lane Mitchell

Moore Schenck Sellers, Stewart, Taylor, Thompson Williams A.S. & R.G. were absent. Bro. Wailes was excused for absence from the last meeting. Bros Richardson & Craven were then elected members of the Com: The regular reporter to the Soc. Ing, being absent the monthly report was not read. Mr Harrison was then continued as reporter for next month. The debate being next in order Bro. Bullions was appointed to fill the place of the debater on the aff: who was absent. A motion having been made that the debate be postponed which was lost the committee entered into the debate which was continued for a considerable time. The following question was then chosen as the subject of debate at the next meeting "Does the scripture doctrine of the unity of the church require it to be externally one organized body?" Disputants Eells Aff & Farquhar Neg. The Pres: Bro: Stewart, having been absent from three successive regular meetings, without presenting any excuse for his absence his name was stricken from the roll. This rendered it necessary to enter into an election to fill the

vacancy, which terminated in the choice of Bro Mc Martin. Bro Kennedy then resigned the Office of Secy and Bro. Bullions was elected in his Stead There being no other business before the Com: it adjourned with prayer by Bro. Wailes

Jas F. Kennedy Secy

Oratory Jany 29th 45

The Committee met & was opened with prayer by Bro Davis. The roll was then called & the following members failed to answer to their names. Bros. Bullions, Carpenter, Kennedy. Jane Mitchell, Moore, Thompson, Wilkins A.S & R.S. Bros Eels, David, Farquhar, French Harrison, Allen, Schenck, Taylor. A.S. & R.S. Wilkins were Excused for absence from the last meeting. Bro Baily was then proposed & Elected a member of the Committee. The Monthly Reporter Mr Harrison failing to present his report & offering a sufficient ~~Excuse~~ Reason was excused. The debate being next in order, it was moved by Bro. Davis that the discussion of the Question be postponed till the next regular meeting. Bro Eels offered an amendment that the Com. meet next Wednesday Evening

to discuss the question. The Amendment was lost.
The vote was then taken on the original motion which resulted in a lie. The chairman decided that the debate should proceed. The committee then entered upon the debate which was continued for a short time. Bro Eels supporting the aff. and Bro. Harrison the negative. The following question was then chosen for the next debate "Is Solitary Confinement the best system of prison discipline" Bro' Kennedy's resignation of Membership was then received and accepted. Bro' Bullions then resigned the office of Secy and Bro Craven was elected in his place. It was then moved & carried after some discussion that Bro Thompson be excused from reading the annual report in March. Bros Farquhar, McMartin & Eels were then severally appointed to read annual reports in March next. on subjects connected with the three great objects of the Committee
There being no further business, the Committee adjourned with prayer by Bro Farquhar

Alexr B V Bullions Secy

Oxford February 26th 1845

The committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. Schenck, Bro McMartin being in the chair. The roll was then called and the following members failed to answer to their names Bros. Bailey, Bullions, Carpenter, Eells, Lane, Moore, Sellers, Thompson, Wailes, A. S. Williams, & R. G. Williams. Bro. Baldwin was excused for absence from last meeting. The reading of the Annual Report to the Society of Inquiry being next in order, at the motion of Bro. French it was deferred until the next meeting. The debate being next in order the affirmative was supported by Bro. French and the negative by Bro. Harrison both regular debates, after which it was continued for some time by the other members. The standing committee having reported three questions the following one was chosen as the subject for the next debate "Ought private judgement as to articles of faith be allowed

to all" Disputants next in order Lane & Whitted. Bro. Lane was then appointed Reporter for the April meeting of the Society of Inquiry. There being no more business the Committee was adjourned with prayer by Bro. Craven.

E. Craven Secy.

Oratory March 5th 1845.

The committee met in Special Session at the call of the Chairman. It was opened with prayer by Bro. Garrison. The roll being called the following members failed to answer to their names. Bros. Bailey, Bullions, Carpenter, David, Davis, Lane, Richardson, Schenck, Sellers, Thompson, Wails, A. S. Williams & R. G. Williams. The object of the meeting was stated to be to hear the annual report to the Society of Inquiry read. Bro. Farquhar read a report on Public Morals, Bro. Ellis on the Romish Church & Bro. McMartin on Infidelity, all of which were accepted. Bros. Andrews & Potter were proposed as members of the committee and admitted. No more business the committee adjourned with prayer by Bro. Moore. E. Craven Secy.

Oratory April 1st 1845

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. Harrison. In the absence of the Secretary A. H. Mitchell was appointed Sec for the evening. Absent at the calling of the roll. Msrs Bullions. Carpenter. Craven. Farquhar Lane. Moore, Sellers. Thompson. Wailes. and R. G. Williams. Bros. Richardson and Bailey were excused for absence from the last meeting. Bro. Lane read the monthly report before the Committee which was accepted. The question was then discussed by the regular debators and by several members of the Com=mittee. The following question was selected for discussion at the next regular meeting - "Is it the duty of Christians to pledge themselves to abstain from the use of all intoxicating li=quors as a beverage?" Disputants Affirmative Potter - Negative Richardson. Bro Mitchell was appointed the next monthly Reporter An election was held for annual Essayist which resulted in the choice of Bro Richardson.

Bro Baldwin offered to the committee his resignation - which, on motion was accepted On motion of Bro. French Article III Sec 1st of the Constitution was so altered as to read instead of "the last Wednesday of each month", the Wednesday evening next preceding the first Thursday of each month. It was also moved and carried, that, under the head of Miscellaneous business, the Reporter be called upon to state to the Committee - whether he fulfilled his duty to the Society of Inquiry - Adjourned with Prayer by Bro. Richardson.

A. M. Mitchell Sec. pro. tem.

Oratory April 30th 1845

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro Potter. The Secretary being absent A. M. Mitchell was appointed Secretary for the evening - The roll was then called and the following members failed to answer to their names. Bros. Bullins Carpenter, Craven, David, Davis, Eells - French, Lane & Schenck. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Bro Seller was

excused for absence from the last meeting. The Monthly Report was then read by Bro Mitchell which was accepted. On motion the discussion of the question was postponed until the next regular meeting - The Committee then went into an election of Officers for the ensuing session, which resulted in the choice of

John Farquhar - Chairman.
And^{w} D. Mitchell Secretary.

In consequence of the uncertainty of the return of the Annual Essayist - (Mr Richardson) at the commencement of next session - Bro Potter was chosen as his alternate.

Adjourned with Prayer

A. D. Mitchell Sec. pro. tem.

Oratory Sept 3rd 1845

Committee met and was opened with Prayer by Bro David. The roll was called and the following members failed to answer to their names Bros Craven, Davis. Eells. Schenck Sellers. and Wailes. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. On motion the discussion of the question was postponed until the next regular meeting. The annual Essayist having failed to perform his duty upon rendering a satisfactory reason, was excused. Bro Potter was appointed the next Monthly Reporter. Bros Craven Eells, and Wailes were elected Annual Reporters. Bros Lane. Harrison and Potter were elected a Committee to present questions for discussion. Bros Bailey and Richardson presented their resignations as members of the Committee which on motion were accepted. Bro Schenck being next on the roll was appointed to take Bro Richardsons place on the debate.

On motion the Committee adjourned with prayer by Bro Harrison A. D. Mitchell Sec.

Oratory Oct 1st 1845

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro Potter. The roll was called and the following members failed to answer to their names. Bros. Davis, Eells. Schenck. Sellers and Wailes. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Messrs C. R Gregory, J W Carroll. G. C. Heckman. J. E. Miller T. S. Brown. W. J. Blain. and Cyrus Huntington were then proposed and elected members of the Committee. Bro. Harrison requested and obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the meeting. The monthly report was read by Bro Potter - and accepted. Bro Schenck, one of the regular debators being absent. Bro Lane was appointed to supply his place. The regular question was discussed by Bro Potter on the Aff. and Lane on the Neg. The following question, was then selected for discussion at the next meeting. viz. "Is the public discussion of the Romish Controversy in either

an oral or written form the best method of retarding the progress of that heresy?" Disputants Aff. Sellers Neg Wailes. Bro Schenck was appointed the next monthly Reporter.

Adjourned with prayer by Bro Sanz.

A. V. Mitchell. Sec.

Oratory Nov. 5th 1845

Committee met, and was opened with prayer by Bro Davis. The Roll was called and the following members failed to answer to their names Bros. David, Ellis, Gregory and Schenck. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Messrs S. W. Gulick. Thomas Murphy. P. M. Finnie Alexander Reid, L. Rogers. and H. H. Welles were then proposed and elected members of the committee. The Monthly Report was not read on account of the absence of the Reporter. The regular question was then discussed. and the following one was selected for discussion at the next meeting. viz "Does the present state of the religious world require a plan of union among evangelical

churches on the principle defended by Merle D'Aubigne?" - Disputants Aff. Blain. Neg T. L. Brown. * The resignations of Bros Davis and Schenck, as members of the Committee, were presented, and on motion, accepted.

Adjourned with prayer by Bro Carroll. A. D. Mitchell Sec.

* Bro Sellers was appointed next monthly Reporter.

Oratory Dec 3rd 1845

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. Gregory - Absent at the calling of the Roll. Bros. Carroll. Sells. Pirnie. Potter & Sellers. Bro Gregory was excused for absence at the last meeting - The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Messrs. D. B Lapsley and E.G. Walker were proposed and elected members of the Committee. On account of the absence of the Reporter. the monthly report was not read. The regular question was then discussed. and the following was chosen as the question. to be discussed at the

next regular meeting. viz. "Ought infidel publications to be suppressed by law?' Disputants. Affs. Carroll. Neg David. Bro Wailes was appointed the next monthly Reporter.

Committee adjourned with prayer by Bro Walker A. N. Mitchell. Sec.

Oratory Feb. 4th 1846

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro Sellers. The Chairman being absent Bro Potter was chosen Chairman pro. tem. Absent at the calling of the roll Bros. Blain. Brown David. Eells, Gregory, Gulick. Lapsley. Miller Murphy. Pirnie, Rogers, Wailes, Walker. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Bros. Carroll, Potter and Sellers were excused for absence from the preceding meeting. The monthly report was not read, As Bro David one of the regular debators was absent. Bro Lane was appointed to supply his place. The regular question was then discussed by Bro Carroll

on the affirmative and Lane on the Negative. The following was selected as the question for discussion at the next regular meeting, viz. Is Romish baptism valid? Aff. Gregory. Neg. Heckman. Bro. Walker was appointed next monthly Reporter. Bro. Ellis was excused for absence from three successive meetings of the committee. His resignation, and that of Bro Harrison were then offered, and on motion accepted. Adjourned with Prayer by Bro Harrison.

A. H. Mitchell Sec,

x Bro. Reid was elected annual Essayist.

A.H.M. Sec

Mason Library Feb. 5th 1846

Bro. Lane having volunteered to write the monthly Report a Special meeting of the Committee was called to hear it read. The roll was called and the following gentlemen failed to answer to their names. Messrs, Carroll, Gregory,

Gulick, Heckman, Huntington, Lapsley, Miller Murphy, Pinnie, Reid, Rogers, Sellers, Wailes, Weller, Bro Lane read the Repot, which on motion was accepted. There being no further business the Committee adjourned with prayer by the Chairman

A. M. Mitchell, Sec.

Oratory March 4th 1846

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro Sellers. Absent Messrs Gulick Huntington, Lapsley, Potter, Pinnie. The minutes of the last regular and special meetings were read and approved. Messrs Blain, David Gregory, Miller, Murphy, Rogers, Wailes and Walker were excused for absence from the last regular meeting. On motion the absentees from the special meeting were not called upon for their excuses. The regular Report was read by Bro. Walker and was on motion accepted. The discussion of the question was postponed until the next regular

meeting. Bro. Welles was appointed the next monthly Reporter—

Adjourned with prayer by Bro. Murphy.

A. H. Mitchell Sec.

Batavia April 1st 1846

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. Reid. Absent Messrs. Brown Gregory, Gulick, Huntington, Lapsley, Murphy, Rogers Sellers, Wailes. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Bro Potter was excused for absence from the last regular meeting. The name of Bro. Pirnie was stricken from the roll for absence from three successive regular meetings without rendering an excuse. The monthly report was read by Bro. Welles, and on motion accepted. The regular question was then discussed by Bro. Lane on the affirmative, and Walker on the Neg. The following was then chosen as the question for discussion at the next regular meeting, viz. Ought the People to have the priv-

idege of deciding the question of license to sell liquor, by public vote in their respective towns? Disputants Huntington and Lane. Bro. Blain was appointed to read the next monthly report. The resignation of Bro. Sellers was offered and on motion accepted

Adjourned with prayer by Bro. Lane

A M. Mitchell
Sec

Oratory. May 6th 1846

The Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. Blain. Absent Brs Brown, David, Gregory, Huntington, Miller, Murphy, Potter, Reid, Rogers, and Wailes. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Bro. Lapsley appeared and rendered a satisfactory excuse for his absence from the last three meetings of the Committee. The name of Bro. Gulick was stricken from the roll for absence from three successive regular meetings without

an excuse. The monthly report was read by Bro. Blain and on motion accepted. The regular question was then discussed by Bro. Blain on the Aff. and Lane on the Neg. The following question was then chosen for discussion at the next regular meeting, viz, Ought profanity and kindred offences against public morals be punished by law? Disputants — Aff Lapsley — Neg. Miller. The Committee then went into an election of officers for the ensueing session, which resulted in the choice of A. D. Mitchell, Chairman — and C. C. Heckman, Secretary.

The Committee then adjourned with prayer by the Chairman.

A. D. Mitchell, Sec'y

Oratory, Sep 2nd 1846.

Committee met and opened with prayer by the Chairman. Absent: Brown, Carrole, David, Huntington, Miller, Laps

ley, Rogers, Walker, The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Bros. Gregory, Murphy, and Reid were excused for absence from the previous meeting. On motion Bro. Craven was excused for absence from the meeting of the Committee during the last session, he having been absent from the Institution. The Annual Essay was then read by Bro. Reid, and on motion approved. The regular question then came up for discussion. The disputants being absent, the Chairman appointed Bro. Lane to fill the place of Bro. Lapsley, and Bro. Craven to the place of Bro. Miller. The following question was then selected for discussion at the next regular meeting-viz, Have not Roman Catholic Countries greater claims upon Christians for the gospel than the heathen? Affs. Murphy — Denny, Reid. Bros. Blain, Craven and Lane were elected a committee to select questions for ~~this~~ discussion. Bros, Craven, Heckman, and Murphy were elected annual Reporters for March next.

Bro. Brown was appointed to read the next Monthly Report. Adjourned with prayer by Bro. Murphy.

Geo. C. Heckman, Sec.

Oratory, Oct 1st 1846.

Committee met and was opened with prayer by Bro. Reid. Roll called – absent Bros. Blain, Carroll, David, Huntington, Lapsley, Miller, Murphy, Rogers, Walker, and Welles. Minutes of the last meeting read and adopted. Messrs Freeland, King, Reeves, Conover, and Young were proposed and elected Members of this committee. The Monthly report was then read by Bro. Brown, and on motion accepted. The regular question was then discussed by Bro. Lane in the affirmative, and Bro. Reid in the negative. The following question was given for discussion at the next meeting, viz; Ought the evidence of an infidel be received in a court of justice? Affs. Rogers – Neg. Welles. Mr Gregory offered his resignation which on was received. The

reading of the Constitution was postponed. Adjourned with prayer by Bro. Brown.

Geo. C. Heckman, Sec.

Oratory, Nov 4th 1846.

Committee met and opened with prayer by Bro. Reid. The Sec. being absent, Bro Lane was chosen Sec. pro-tem. Roll called, absent Bros. Blain, Carroll, Craven, Freeland, Heckman, Huntington, Murphy, Rodgers, & Walker. Minutes of the previous meeting read & approved. The reporter, Bro. Carroll being absent, there was no monthly report. Bros. Bradner, Gibson W. J., & Wood were elected members of the Committee. On motion, the discussion of the question was postponed.

C. R. Lane, Sec. pro-tem.

Oratory, Dec 2nd 1846.

Committee met, and opened with prayer by Bro. Reeves. Roll called — absent Bros. Freeland, Murphy, Weller, Young, Gibson, And Wood. The following gentlemen were excused for absence from the pre-

vious meeting - Bros. Blain, Craven and Heckman.
Mr Osmond was proposed and elected a member of
the Committee. Bro. Conover failed in presenting
the monthly report; and on motion was excused.
The question then came up for discussion. The
regular debaters being absent; Bro. Craven was
appointed on the Affirmative, and Bro. Lane on
the negative. The following question was then chosen
for discussion at the next meeting; Ought voluntary
associations for the suppression of immorality
receive the countenance of the Church? Affirm
Young. Deny - Bradner. Adjourned with
prayer by Bro. King.

Geo. C. Heckman, Sec.

Constitution
& Bye Laws
of The Committee on Public Morals, Romish Church, & Infidelity.

Adopted, May 1844.

Art. 1.

The particular subjects to which the attention of this committee shall be directed, are "The means employed, or plans proposed by Temperance, Prison discipline, Moral Reform, & kindred associations for the improvement of public morals; The state of the Romish church in this & other Countries, — Efforts to propogate or oppose the system, — its influence on the civil, social & moral condition of Communities, with the efforts of Infidels to diffuse these poisonous principles." See Constitution of Soc. of Inq., Art 13, Sect. 8 & 9 — 4.

Art. 2nd. Officers.

Sect. 1. The officers of the Committee shall be a Chairman & Secretary elected annually by ballot at the last meeting of the term.

Sect. 2nd It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all the meetings of the Committee; & in his absence a Chairman "pro tempore" may be appointed.

Sect. 3d It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the Committee of its meetings, & this notification shall in all cases be given at least one day previous to the meeting; he shall call the roll at the opening of each meeting; make a correct minute of the proceedings, & when approved by the Committee enter it upon the records; he shall also give to those who may be elected members of the Com. written notice of the fact, & shall keep a correct list of

all the members of the Com. from the time of its organization.

Art. 3d. Meetings.

Sect. 1st. The regular meeting of this Com. shall be held on the ~~last Wednesday evening~~ of each month during term time, at as early an hour as practicable, & every meeting shall be opened & closed with prayer. Changed to the 3rd Monday (During 1847 - Tuesday) ~~Wednesday~~ evening ~~next~~ preceding the 1st Thursday of each month

Sect 2nd. Extra meetings when necessary may be called by the Chairman; or at the request of three members.

Sect. 3d. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

Art. 4th. Members.

Sect. 1st. The number of members belonging to this Com., — according to the Const. of the Soc. of Ing. — may not exceed thirty.

Sect. 2nd. New members may be elected at

any regular meeting by a vote of two thirds.

Sect. 3d. If any member absent himself from three successive regular meetings of the Com. without rendering a sufficient excuse, his name shall be stricken from the roll; & it shall be the duty of the Chairman to report his name to the Board of Managers at its next regular meeting.

Art. 5th. Discussions.

Sect. 1st. A discussion of some question previously selected connected with one of the subjects assigned to this Com. shall be held at the stated meeting in each month; & this discussion shall be opened by two members taken from the roll in alphabetical order, who shall not be allowed to speak more than ten minutes each.

Sect. 2nd. Not more than one hour shall be devoted to the discussion, unless

the Com. otherwise direct by Special vote; & no member (except the regular disputants) shall have the privilege of speaking more than <u>five</u> minutes on the question at one time, nor shall <u>any</u> member speak more than once until all the members have had an opportunity of speaking.

Sect. 3d. All questions presented in writing by members of the Com. shall be preserved by the Secretary in a book kept for that purpose.

Sect. 4th. <u>Three</u> members shall be elected by ballot at the first regular meeting of each term, whose duty it shall be to present to the Com. at each regular meeting, at least three questions, from which number the Com., if it see fit, may select one for discussion at the ensuing meeting.

Art. 6th. Reports.

Sect. 1st. The monthly reports to the Soc. of Eng. shall be made by the members of the Com. in alphabetical order.

Sect. 2nd. One, two, or three members, at the discretion of the Com., shall be chosen by ballot at the regular meeting in Sept. to prepare the annual report to be read before the Soc. of Eng. in March; also a member in February to read the annual essay in Sept.

Sect. 3d. All essays & reports shall be submitted to the Com. for approval before being read in the Soc. of Eng.

Art. 7th. Order of Exercises.

1st. Open with prayer.
2nd. Calling of the roll.
3d. Reading of the minutes.
4th. Excuses to be rendered.

5th ". Election of new members.
6th ". Reading of report or essay.
7th ". Discussion of the question.
8th ". Information to be Communicated.
9th ". Selection of a question for next meeting.
10th ". Appointment of Reporter.
11th ". Elections.
12th ". Miscellaneous business.
13th ". Adjournment with prayer.

Art 8th.

Sect. 1st. This Constitution shall be read before the Com. at the second regular meeting of each term; & every new member not present at that meeting shall be required to read it for himself.

Sect. 2nd. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended except by a vote of two thirds of the members present at a regular meeting.

Finis.